

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P R 200404Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1454

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0479

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: TRANSITIONAL QUARTER FUNDING FOR CU PROGRAM

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 0057, B. PORT MORESBY A-22, MAY 19, 1976

C. STATE 115178, D. PORT MORESBY 0079

1. POST SINCERELY APPRECIATIVE OF GREAT EFFORT BY CU ON BEHALF PNG EXCHANGE PROGRAM. A CONSIDERABLE SLICE OF PNG'S BEST YOUNG OFFICIALS AT SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL HAVE VISITED OR ARE ABOUT TO VISIT U.S. THIS YEAR. PROGRAM ALREADY PAYING RICH DIVIDENDS IN CONTACTS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. HERE. IMPACT HAS BEEN MUCH MORE WIDESPREAD THAT EFFECT ON INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES.

2. IN JANUARY POST INDICATED HOPE THAT STRONG PITCH COULD BE MADE FOR FOUR IV'S IN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER BUDGET AT APPROXIMATE COST U.S.DOLS 15,920 (REF A). THIS REQUEST WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN REF B WHICH DEPT. WILL NOT YET HAVE RECEIVED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH LED DEPT TO INDICATE IN REF C THAT ADDITIONAL IV MONEY WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSITIONAL QUARTER. AT SAME TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE REDUCED REQUEST (THREE IV'S) FOR GRANTEES WHOSE TRAVEL POSSIBILITIES APPEAR TO BE LIMITED TO THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

A. IGNATIUS KILAGE (CANDIDATE NO. 5 REF D) IS CURRENTLY CHIEF OMBUDSMAN FOR PNG. HE IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE IN ALBERTA ON SEPT. 1, 1976, TO DISCUSS OMBUDSMANSHIP. PRIOR TO ATTENDING CONFERENCE HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A WEEK OR MORE IN

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HONOLULU TO VISIT HERMAN DOI, AND TO SEE DOI'S INTERNATIONALLY

FAMOUS OMBUDSMAN ORGANIZATION. KILAGE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THREE WEEKS FOLLOWING ALBERTA CONFERENCE VISITING VARIOUS OMBUDSMEN IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S. IN ADDITION TO HIS ROLE AS OMBUDSMAN KILAGE IS ONE OF TOP THREE OR FOUR MOST PROMINENT POLITICO/BUREAUCRATIC PERSONALITIES FROM THE PNG HIGHLANDS AREA. FOLLOWING A TWO YEAR TOUR AS CHIEF OMBUDSMAN HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ASSUME MORE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT ROLES. AT THAT TIME HE WILL BE REPLACED BY ANDREW MAINO WHO IS ASSISTANT PNG OMBUDSMAN. GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA WOULD LIKE SEND BOTH KILAGE AND MAINO TO ALBERTA CONFERENCE BUT EVIDENTLY WILL BE ABLE TO ONLY FUND ONE. KILAGE HOPES TO RECEIVE FULL U.S. GRANT SO THAT MAINO CAN HAVE BENEFIT OF ALBERTA EXPERIENCE (AT GPNG EXPENSE). ALTERNATIVELY WE COULD OFFER DOLS 2,000 PARTIAL TO KILAGE (THIRTY DAYS PLUS INTERNAL AIR) IN WHICH CASE MAINO COULD NOT ATTEND ALBERTA CONFERENCE. TRAVEL FALLS WITHIN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER. POST RECOMMENDS CONSIDERABLE FULL FUNDING FOR KILAGE (DOLS 4,000).

B. PORT MORESBY STRONGLY DESIRES SEND SOLOMON ISLANDER TO U.S. DURING FY 76. FRED OSIFELO, SPEAKER OF SOLOMON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INVITED, AND AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY DUE VERY RUDIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PNG AND SOLOMONS, HE DECLINED. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY INVITED MR. BADDELEY DEVESI, ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTER OF WORKS TO TAKE HIS PLACE. INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH SOLOMONS LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT DEVESI MAY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT GRANT FOR TRAVEL IN INTERIM BUDGET PERIOD. COMMUNICATIONS ARE SUCH THAT PLANNING CAN ONLY BE CHANGED WITH DIFFICULTY. WE THEREFORE REQUEST FULL FUNDING FOR DEVESI (DOLS 4,000).

C. MARK OPA: A THIRD, BUT MUCH LOWER PRIORITY WOULD BE FOR OPA WHO IS CURRENTLY PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SIR MAORI KIKI. OPA PLANS TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT (WHERE IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT HE WILL BEAT THE INCUMBANT). IF ELECTIONS ARE HELD THIS YEAR IN NOVEMBER, AS DESIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, HE MUST CAMPAIGN IN SEPTEMBER. HE THEREFORE DESIRES TO TRAVEL DURING PERIOD INTERIM BUDGET. SINCE OPA HAS WON A 1976 GUNTHER FELLOWSHIP VALUED AT DOLS 1,000, A PARTIAL GRANT OF DOLS 2,000 TO DOLS 3,000 IS DESIRED. IF A FULL GRANT CAN BE UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE OPA WOULD PEND ADDITIONAL TWO WEEKS IN U.S. UTILIZING GUNTHER FUNDS ON SPECIALIZED STUDY OF VILLAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT U.S. UNIVERSITY. OPA HAS IMPRESSIVE BACKGROUND IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HERE, HOLDS B.A. IN ECONOMICS FROM UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND TEACHING CERTIFICATE. HE IS MEMBER OF PANGU PATI NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND WAS NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IN 1972. FULL BIO DATA WILL BE PROVIDED IN SUBMISSION DUE JULY 1, OR BEFORE IF FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE

DURING INTERIM BUDGET PERIOD. POST RECOMMENDS FUNDING FOR
PARTIAL GRANT AT DOLS 2,000 TO DOLS 3,000
IF FULL FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.

D. IN SUM THE POST STRONGLY URGES THAT AN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER
BUDGET BE APPROVED AT THE DOLS 8,000 TO DOLS 12,000 LEVEL.
ANY ADDITIONAL EFFORT YOU CAN MAKE ON OUR BEHALF WILL BE MOST
APPRECIATED.
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